

REMARKS

In the Action, Claims 1 – 22 are pending. Claim 1 is rejected. Claims 4-22 are objected to. In response to the above-noted Office Action, Applicant has amended Claims 1-5 and 7-22. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 1-5 and 7-22 remain.

Claim objections under 37 CFR 1.75(c)

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 4-22 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. In response, Applicant has amended Claims 4, 5, and 7-22 to overcome the 37 CFR 1.75(c) objection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 37 CFR 1.75(c) objection for Claims 4, 5, and 7-22 is respectfully requested.

Drawings

It is asserted in the Office Action that the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description, namely “y” and “y^o”, pages 5-6. ”. In response, regarding **Figure 2**, Applicant submits a corrected drawing labeled as “Replacement Sheet”, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Approval is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

It is asserted in the Office Action that Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by any one of Morgan, cited by applicant, Bayer et al., Salloum et al., and Zeller et al. In response, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 6, namely wherein which each strip extends from a longitudinal edge of the support. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record are requested in view of the amendment and the following discussion.

Applicant notes that none of the four references cited by the Examiner anticipates currently amended claim 1 corresponding to the combination of initially filed claims 1 and 6.

Morgan discloses, in figure 1, an absorber 16 for vehicle bumper, comprising a support (the rear vertical panel) and strips extending forwards from the support in a generally horizontal direction.

The support comprises an upper longitudinal edge extending in a transversal direction of the vehicle, and a lower longitudinal edge. None of the horizontal strips of the absorber 16 disclosed in figure 1 of Morgan extends from the upper or the lower longitudinal edge of the support.

Consequently, Morgan does not disclose the characteristics of the new claim 1 and does not anticipate this claim.

Bayer discloses an absorber 14 for vehicle bumper. The absorber 14 shown on figure 3 does not disclose a support for strips extended forwards. It only discloses a "latticework of intersecting vertical walls 42 and horizontal walls 44" (column 2, lines 14-16). Consequently, Bayer does not anticipate the new claim 1.

Salloum discloses an absorber for vehicle bumper. This absorber does not comprise strips extended forwards from a support and openings extending opposite one of the face of the strips and opening onto the exterior of the absorber. Consequently, Salloum does not anticipate the new claim 1.

Zeller discloses an absorber for vehicle bumper. The vertical panel 16 is an "elongated steel bumper beam". Consequently, this panel 16 is not a support being a part of the absorber. As a result, the absorber 10 does not comprise a support from which strips extend forwards and Zeller does not anticipate claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the claimed invention is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the pending claims, namely Claims 1 -22 are in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.